

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search.

By this amendment, the specification has been amended to correct minor typographical errors, and the title has been replaced. Furthermore, original Claims 1-18 have been canceled, and new Claims 19-47 added. Hence, Claims 19-47 are pending in the application.

As a preliminary matter, receipt of the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review is acknowledged. Applicants recognize that the present drawings are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be submitted after completion of the examination process upon the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Office Action of March 10, 2005, the specification was objected to as the title of the invention is allegedly not descriptive. The title of the invention has been amended herein to "Method and System for Sharing Information in an Instant Messaging Environment." Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS

In the Office Action of March 10, 2005, the claims were objected to as they were misnumbered in the original application. The original claims have been canceled in the present amendment. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the claims.

REJECTION OF THE CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,816,884 to Summers ("*Summers*"). As claims 1-18 have been cancelled herein, the rejection is moot.

Furthermore, *Summers* does not teach or suggest new claims 19-47. *Summers* is directed to a system that collects, stores and condenses e-mails between members of a discussion group. The condensed digest is sent on a periodic basis to the members. Significantly, at Col. 2, lns 50-51, *Summers* teaches that "the conversation does not happen in real time." At Col. 9, lns 48-54, *Summers* differentiates instant messaging from the e-mail digest that it creates, stating that the "conversation text is not live, it has a selectable frequency for sending the digests." The claimed invention is directed to sharing information in substantially real-time between instant messaging applications, and is not taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

CONCLUSION


For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP



Lesley Coulson Boveri

Reg. No. 46,642

2055 Gateway Place, Suite 550
San Jose, CA 95110-1089
(408) 414-1080
Date: May 20, 2005
Facsimile: (408) 414-1076

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on May 20, 2005

by


Judy Paradossi